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How to Handle Substantially Similar Names



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09/02/2014
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Elections Division – Texas Secretary of State

31st Annual Election Seminar – July 2013

9/26/2013

Texas Secretary of State Elections Division

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Agenda

- Applicable Rules and Statutes
- Acceptable Forms of IDs
- Informing Voters Together
- Training Election Judges and Clerks
- Determining Similar Names
- Processing the Voter
- Updating Records



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Applicable Rules and Statutes

- Tex. Elec. Code §63.001(c)
- Tex. Admin. Code Rule §81.71



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Acceptable Forms of ID

- Texas driver license
- Texas Election Identification Certificate
- Texas personal identification card
- Texas concealed handgun license
- United States military identification card containing the person's photograph
- United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph
- United States passport



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Informing Voters Together

- SOS is planning **STATEWIDE** outreach plan for this fall!!!
 - Secretary Steen visiting Texas counties!
 - TV/Radio outreach planned!
 - “Am I Registered?” will work for voters!



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Informing Voters Together

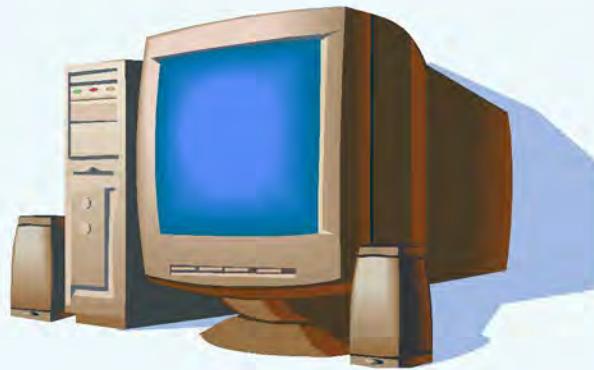
- SOS will help **COUNTIES** contact potentially impacted voters!!!
 - Directs voters to “Am I Registered?”
 - Contact SOS if you need more information.



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Training Judges and Clerks

- **REMEMBER**, all election judges and clerks must take the training on accepting and handling voter identification.



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Determining Similar Names

- Who?
 1. Early Voting Clerk
 2. Deputy Early Voting Clerk
 3. Election Judge
 4. Election Clerk



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Determining Similar Names

- **What?**
 - Names that are **not** identical, but are similar.



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Totality of the Circumstances

- Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Taylor Johnson



Texas Driver License

Lady Bird Johnson
123 Texas Way
Austin, Texas 71234

Date of Birth: 12/22/1912

Precinct 1 – Travis County List of Registered Voters

Claudia Bird Taylor
123 Texas Way
Austin, Texas 71234

Date of Birth: 12/22/1912



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Totality of the Circumstances

- Use information to assist in determination:
 - Address
 - Date of Birth
 - Photograph



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Determining Similar Names

- **What does that mean?**
 1. Slightly Different
 2. Customary Variation
 3. Initial, Middle Name or Former Name
 4. Different Field



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Slightly Different

OLRV or ID	OLRV or ID
Dorris Miller	Doris Miller
Nanci Griffith	Nancy Griffith
Harlen Block	Harlon Block
Charlie Pride	Charley Pride
Mark Cuban	Marc Cuban
Jamie Fox	Jamie Foxx



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Slightly Different

- **Minor misspellings of names**, e.g. Jan vs. Jane, Julia vs. Julie.
- **Extra letters, minor typos.**
- **Common different spellings**, e.g. John or Jon, Mark or Marc.



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Customary Variation

OLRV or ID	OLRV or ID
David Crockett	Davy Crockett
Sam Houston	Samuel Houston
James Richard Perry	James Rick Perry
William P. Clements, Jr.	Bill Clements
Enrique B. Gonzales	Henry B. Gonzales
Jonathan Paul Manziel	Johnny Paul Manziel
Esperanza Andrade	Hope Andrade



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Customary Variation

- **English vs. Spanish vs. French spellings**, e.g. Jean vs. John, Jose vs. Joseph, Esperanza vs. Hope.
- **Common Abbreviations**, e.g. Sam for Samuel, Kim for Kimberly.



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Initial, Middle Name, Former Name

OLRV or ID	OLRV or ID
Lyndon Johnson	Lyndon Baines Johnson
William P. Clements, Jr.	Bill Clements
Willie Hugh Nelson	Willie Nelson
Audie Murphy	Audie L. Murphy
J. Roger Williams	Roger Williams
Earl C. Campbell	Earl Campbell
Carole Keeton Rylander	Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Sandra Day	Sandra Day O'Connor
Beyonce Knowles	Beyonce Knowles-Carter



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Initial, Middle Name, Former Name

- Maiden Names
- Hyphenated Names



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Different Field

OLRV or ID	OLRV or ID
Beyonce Knowles	Beyonce Knowles-Carter
Sandra Day	Sandra Day O'Connor



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Totality of Circumstances

- Buddy Holly vs. Charles Hardin Holley
- Ike Eisenhower vs. Dwight David Eisenhower

REMEMBER TO COMPARE ALL INFORMATION



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Processing the Voter

- Stayed Tuned!!
- Recall Early Voting Procedures.



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Processing the Voter

- Voter will be processed similar to today's procedure.
- After providing ID, election workers will need to determine if names on OLRV and ID are exact, similar, or too different to accept for voting.
- Voters with identical matches, proceed as usual.
- Voters with similar name will need to initial affidavit on combination.



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Updating Records

- Statement of Residence/Name Change.
- Flyers for Voters at Polling Places with direction to Texas Online, county website, voter registrar's phone number.
- Voter Registration Applications.



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That's All Folks

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